

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of

Wilson BURGESS, William N. DROHAN, Martin J. MACPHEE, and David M. MANN

: Group Art Unit: 1744

Serial No.: 09/960,700

Filed: September 24, 2001

Confirm. No.: 4269

For: METHODS OF STERILIZING BIOLOGICAL MIXTURES
USING STABILIZER MIXTURES

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the indicated date. Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered. This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that information cited in the statement is considered to be and/or is material to patentability, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that was cited or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. §120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

- X
1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (i) within three months of the U.S. filing date of a U.S. application other than a CPA continued prosecution application under §1.53(d) OR (ii) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application OR (iii) **before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits**. No certification or fee is required. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).
2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection OR Notice of Allowance OR an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).
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— 4. Other

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Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Donald R. McPhail
Registration No. 35,811
Timothy M. Speer
Registration No. 47,355

Correspondence Address:
P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
Telephone: (703) 502-9440
Date: February 27, 2003

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